

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 12-14, 16, 18, and 20 are currently amended. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments contained herein are fully supported by the specification and drawings as originally filed and do not contain new matter.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 8-11, 14-15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Aji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,831,867). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 1, 2, 8, and 14, as currently amended, each include the recitations: “identifying with a line width marker any lines of a schematic having a schematic line width greater than an absolute minimum line width,” “associating a line width parameter with each line width marker, each line width parameter indicating a minimum line width for a corresponding one of the lines of the schematic identified with a line width marker, the minimum line widths for the lines of the schematic identified with a line width marker greater than the absolute minimum line width,” and “comparing the line width parameter for each line width marker with an actual layout line width.” There is no indication of this in Aji et al.

Aji et al. (column 7, line 55, to column 8, line 12) first retrieves wire data for a first wire at block 514 of Figure 5B preferably from a layout file 104 (Figure 1). A minimum wire width is then determined at block 516 for the lumped capacitance and determined drive strength. After determining the minimum wire width at block 516, decision block 518 determines whether the wire width of the wire according to the integrated circuit design is greater than the minimum wire width. That is, decision block 518 compares the width of the wire from the wire data from the layout file for the first wire to the minimum width and thus compares the minimum width to the layout line width. However, there is no indication of the minimum width being a minimum line width for a line of a schematic having a schematic line width greater than an absolute minimum line width, as required by each of claims 1, 2, 8, and 14.

In the Office action the Examiner took the wire data (column 7, lines 55-67) as corresponding to the line width markers of each of claims 1, 2, 8, and 14 and a wire width in the wire data, the width of the first wire in block 514 of Figure 5B, as corresponding to width of the layout line of each of claims 1, 2, 8, and 14. However, the wire data is from layout file 104 and

is not used to identify lines of a schematic having a schematic line width greater than an absolute minimum line width. The Examiner has taken the minimum wire width in block 516 of Figure 5B as corresponding to the line width parameter of each of claims 1, 2, 8, and 14. However, there is no indication of the minimum wire width in block 516 indicating a minimum line width for a corresponding one of the lines of a schematic identified with a line width marker. Therefore, Aji et al. does not include each and every recitation of each of claims 1, 2, 8, and 14, so each of claims 1, 2, 8, and 14 is allowable.

Claims 3-5 depend from claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 9-11 depend from claim 8 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 8. Claims 15 and 17 depend from claim 14 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 14.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6, 12, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,831,867) in view of one or more of: Tan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,117,179) and/or Morrise et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,557,149). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 1 and 8 are each patentably distinct from Aji et al. Moreover, Aji et al. in combination with Tan et al., Aji et al. in combination with Morrise et al., or Aji et al. in combination with Tan et al. and Morrise et al., fails to overcome the deficiencies of Aji et al. with respect to each of claims 1 and 8. Therefore, claims 1 and 8 are allowable over Aji et al. in view of one or more of Tan et al. and/or Morrise et al. Claims 6 and 12 respectively depend from claims 1 and 8 and are thus respectively allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 8.

Claim 18, as currently amended, includes at least the same recitations of claim 1 and is thus patentably distinct from Aji et al. for at least the same reasons (indicated above in conjunction with claim 1) as claim 1. Moreover, Aji et al. in combination with Tan et al., Aji et al. in combination with Morrise et al., or Aji et al. in combination with Tan et al. and Morrise et al., fails to overcome the deficiencies of Aji et al. with respect to claim 18. Therefore, claim 18 is allowable over Aji et al. in view of one or more of Tan et al. and/or Morrise et al. Claim 19 depends from claim 18 and is thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 18.

Claims 7, 13, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,831,867) in view of one or more of: Chonan (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0212402), Mori et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0013023) and Tkabayashi et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0200509). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 1, 8, and 14 are each patentably distinct from Aji et al. Moreover, Aji et al. in combination with Chonan, Aji et al. in combination with Mori et al., Aji et al. in combination with Takabayashi et al., Aji et al. in combination with Chonan and Mori et al., Aji et al. in combination with Chonan and Takabayashi et al., Aji et al. in combination with Mori et al. and Takabayashi et al., or Aji et al. in combination with Chonan, Mori et al., and Takabayashi et al. fails to overcome the deficiencies of Aji et al. with respect to each of claims 1, 8, and 14. Therefore, each of claims 1, 8, and 14 is allowable over Aji et al. in view of one or more of Chonan, Mori et al., and/or Takabayashi et al. Claims 7, 13, and 16 respectively depend from claims 1, 8, and 14 and are thus respectively allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 8, and 14.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,831,867) in view of one or more of: Tan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,117,179) and/or Morrise et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,557,149) in further view of one or more of: Chonan (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0212402), Mori et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0013023), and Tkabayashi et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0200509). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 18 is patentably distinct from Aji et al. in view of one or more of Tan et al. and/or Morrise et al. Moreover, Aji et al. in view of one or more of Tan et al. and/or Morrise et al. in combination with Chonan, Aji et al. in view of one or more of Tan et al. and/or Morrise et al. in combination with Mori et al., Aji et al. in view of one or more of Tan et al. and/or Morrise et al. in combination with Takabayashi et al., Aji et al. in view of one or more of Tan et al. and/or Morrise et al. in combination with Chonan and Mori et al., Aji et al. in view of one or more of Tan et al. and/or Morrise et al. in combination with Chonan and Takabayashi et al., Aji et al. in view of one or more of Tan et al. and/or Morrise et al. in combination with Mori et al. and Takabayashi et al., or Aji et al. in view of one or more of Tan et al. and/or Morrise et al. in combination with Chonan, Mori et al., and Takabayashi et al. fails to overcome the deficiencies of Aji et al. in view of one or more of Tan et al. and/or Morrise et al. with respect to claim 18.

Therefore, claim 18 is allowable over Aji et al. in view of one or more of Tan and/or Morrise et al. in further view of one or more of Chonan, Mori et al., and/or Takabayashi et al. Claim 20 depends from claim 18 and is thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 18.

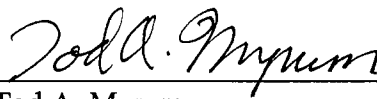
CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any further fees deemed necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501373.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2208.

Respectfully submitted,

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